

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 251959

45

ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 CU-04 RSC-01 /021 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:DKUX:AM

APPROVED BY NEA/INS:DKUX

L MR. FELDMAN

CU:MR. SOLMSEN

----- 119438

R 282333Z DEC 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

INFO AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 251959

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, IN, US

SUBJ: NORTON SIMON NATARAJ

REF: STATE 247889, NEW DELHI 14759

1. INDIAN AIDE MEMOIRE HAS BEEN RECEIVED IN DEPT.
BECAUSE OF ALLEGATIONS OF POSSIBLE CUSTOMS VIOLATIONS,
WE ARE UNABLE TO SHOW DOCUMENT TO MACFARLAND OF NORTON
SIMON FOUNDATION OR TO REVEAL DETAILS. KUX EXPLAINED
THIS TO MACFARLAND DEC. 27; ALSO INDICATED INDIAN
EMBASSY CONFIRMED IMPRESSION REPORTED DELHI 14759 THAT GOI
WAS NOT INTERESTED IN HAVING US PURSUE ANY LEGAL ACTION
AT THIS TIME.

2. ACCORDING TO INDIAN CHARGE GONSALVES, AIDE MEMOIRE
IS FOLLOW ON TO VISIT TO US EARLIER IN 1973 BY INDIAN
POLICE OFFICIAL. GONSALVES SAID GOI DID NOT WANT USG
TO TAKE ANY FORMAL ACTION ON AIDE MEMOIRE WHILE POSSIBILITY

EXISTED OF AMICABLE SETTLEMENT WITH NORTON SIMON.
GONSALVES STATED THAT GOI WAS UNAWARE OF HIS CONTACTS WITH
NORTON SIMON FOUNDATION WHEN AIDE MEMOIRE PREPARED.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 251959

3. GONSALVES GAVE US FURTHER FILL-IN ON CONTACTS WITH FOUNDATION. AS RESULT THEIR TALKS, IN WHICH FOUNDATION EXPRESSED INTEREST IN SETTLEMENT BUT MADE NO SPECIFIC PROPOSALS, GONSALVES SAYS HE HAS RECOMMENDED POSSIBLE PACKAGE DEAL TO GOI UNDER WHICH (A) GOI WOULD WITHDRAW OBJECTION TO INCLUSION OF NATARAJ IN PLANNED MET EXHIBIT, (B) FOLLOWING EXHIBITION, NATARAJ WOULD BE RETURNED TO INDIA, AND (C) GOI WOULD COMPENSATE FOUNDATION WITH OTHER INDIAN ART OBJECTS.

4. GONSALVES HAS NOT YET RECEIVED WORD ON GOI RESPONSE, BUT EXPECTS THIS SHORTLY. HE THINKS QUESTION OF COMPENSATION FOR WHAT GOI CLAIMS STOLEN PROPERTY MAY CAUSE POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES IN INDIA, BUT HAS ARGUED THAT ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE LENGTHY, COSTLY AND UNCERTAIN LITIGATION. GONSALVES AGREED THAT VISIT BY MACFARLAND COULD BE USEFUL ONCE GOI MAKES UP MIND ON SORT OF SETTLEMENT IT WILLING TO ACCEPT.

COMMENT:

5. /WE ARE ENCOURAGED FROM YOUR CONTACTS AND WHAT WE HEAR FROM MACFARLAND AND GONSALVES THAT MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY DEAL MAY BE IN OFFING. PERHAPS EMBASSY CAN NUDGE GOI ALONG IN COMING UP WITH QUICK RESPONSE TO PROPOSED VISIT BY MACFARLAND AS HE SEEMS EAGER TO COMMENCE DISCUSSIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF FOUNDATION'S INTEREST IN HAVING NATARAJ INCLUDED IN MET SHOW.

6. WHILE WE WILL HOLD IN ABEYANCE ANY FORMAL ACTION ON AIDE MEMOIRE, WE ARE FORWARDING DOCUMENT TO CUSTOMS REQUESTING THEIR ASSESSMENT OF INDIAN CLAIM REGARDING POSSIBLE VIOLATION OF US REGULATIONS. KISSINGER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CULTURAL PROPERTY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE251959
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DKUX:AM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973122/aaaaaayr.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 247889, NEW DELHI 14759
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20-Dec-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <07 MAR 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NORTON SIMON NATARAJ
TAGS: SCUL, IN, US, NORTON SIMON
To: NEW DELHI
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005